BAD BUG MIDNIGHT
MATURE 17+

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#2

THE MISADVENTURES OF BOMBSHELL & ATOMICA

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02

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BAD BUG

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IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE THE FATEFUL MISSILE STRIKE THAT SHATTERED THE SENSE OF POST-WAR TRANQUILITY IN OUR QUAINT NEW YORK SUBURBS.

ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FROM THE NATIONAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, UNCLE SAM IS STILL UNCLEAR ON THE ORIGINS OF THE **DASTARDLY ATTACK.**

IT'S OBVIOUSLY ***THE REDS!*** WHAT'S THE USE DENYING WHAT WE ALL KNOW?

THIS JUST IN! WE'RE LIVE ON THE SCENE WHERE A **FIRE** HAS BROKEN OUT IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN!

WE'RE TOLD THAT THE FDNY IS EN ROUTE.

BUT WITH HUNDREDS TRAPPED ON THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE FLAMING BUILDING...

DON'T YOU DARE--!

WHOOSH!

...I THINK WE'RE ALL PRAYING FOR A **MIRACLE** RIGHT NOW!

I TAKE IT YOU SAW THE REPORT?

WHAT'S A TV DINNER WITHOUT THE EVENING NEWS?

I *REALLY* WANT TO KISS YOU RIGHT NOW.

SAVE THE DAY FIRST. *THEN* YOU GET TO KISS THE GIRL.

LOOK! IT'S BOMBSHELL & ATOMICA!

I'M NOT USUALLY INTO STRONG WOMEN, BUT...

...IF YOU WANT TO MAKE IT TO THE GROUND IN ONE PIECE.

=HNNGH= I RECOMMEND NOT FINISHING THAT THOUGHT...

LOOK OUT!

HOT

IT'S WEIRD THAT THEY'RE WOMEN THOUGH, RIGHT?

IMAGINE HOW POWERFUL THEIR HUSBANDS MUST BE!

YOU REALLY ARE HEROES!

CAN I SNAP A PHOTO OF YOU DARLING DAMES?

HOW 'BOUT A LITTLE FAMILIARITY, LADIES?

SCOOCH CLOSER TOGETHER!

TRUST US, THIS IS CLOSE ENOUGH.

FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.

WAIT! CAN WE GET A QUOTE?

FOLKS ARE DYING TO MEET THE GIRLS BEHIND THE MASKS!

MAYBE NEXT TIME!

THINK THIS IS HIGH ENOUGH?

KZZT

IT BETTER BE. I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

IT'S GETTING LATE.

SHOULD WE GO HOME?

SO VICTOR CAN REMIND ME HOW "RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE" WE'RE BEING?

PASS.

MAYBE... MAYBE WE SHOULD TELL THEM.

I'M GUESSING THEY ALREADY KNOW.

I MEAN, THEY'D HAVE TO BE PRETTY STUPID NOT TO RECOGNIZE THEIR WIVES IN THEIR HALLOWEEN COSTUMES FROM A FEW WEEKS AGO.

NO, I MEAN... ABOUT *US.*

OH.

BETTY, THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

A RELATIONSHIP LIKE OURS...IT'S NOT SOMETHING THE WORLD IS READY FOR.

I JUST...I WANT TO BE ABLE TO TOUCH YOU.

AND NOT JUST WHEN WE'RE FIFTY MILES AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION.

I KNOW. I WISH OUR CIRCUMSTANCES WERE DIFFERENT.

I WISH THE WORLD WAS DIFFERENT.

BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE HAPPY.

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE WAR...I REALLY *AM* HAPPY.

I'M HAPPY TOO.

SPSHHH

HEY.

SOLDIER!

HEY.

I'M TALKING TO YOU.

WHAT CAN I HELP YOU WITH, VICTOR?

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT OUR WIVES?

...SUPPORT THEM?

FOR BEING... *INDECENT?*

THEY THINK BECAUSE THEY HAVE THESE... POWERS...THAT THEY CAN FIGHT.

AND WE KNOW WOMEN...THEY AREN'T ***BUILT*** TO DO THE THINGS WE DID.

IT'S JUST BIOLOGY, YOU KNOW?

"THE FAULTS OF INCOMPETENT ABILITIES WILL BE CONSIGNED TO OBLIVION, AS MYSELF MUST SOON BE TO THE MANSIONS OF REST."

SOLDIER...PARDON MY CANDOR, BUT WHAT'S THIS FAIRY SHIT ABOUT?

I GUESS GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS BEST KNOWN FOR BEING UMM...A "FAIRY" YOU SAID?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IT'S NOT *OUR* WAR TO FIGHT ANYMORE.

THE ONLY WAY FOR OUR COUNTRY TO GROW IS TO MOVE ON.

ARE YOU GOING TO STAND IN THE WAY OF THAT?

OUR SOLDIERS ARE HOME. ***WE'RE HOME.***

LIFE IS GOOD.

IT'S WHAT WE FOUGHT FOR, AND GUESS WHAT... ***WE WON!***

YOU THINK THIS IS WINNING?

MY FRIEND, THE WAR ISN'T OVER...IT JUST CHANGED SETTINGS.

BY THE WAY, IT'S BRANT.

JUST BRANT.

I STOPPED ANSWERING TO "SOLDIER" A LONG TIME AGO.

Snip

IT'S GETTING LATE.

IS THAT YOUR WAY OF SAYING YOU WANT TO HEAD TO OUR SPOT?

BOOM

THAT LOOKED JUST LIKE--

ANOTHER MISSILE STRIKE?

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANYTHING OUT HERE.

...SUCCESSFUL TEST DETONATION.

THE BLAST RADIUS MATCHED PROJECTIONS TO THE CENTIMETER.

THEY'RE TESTING ***EXPLOSIONS?*** DO YOU THINK THEY'RE BEHIND THE ATTACK LAST MONTH?

I KNOW HOW WE CAN FIND OUT.

FWAP

BWEET! BWEET! BWEET! BWEET! BWEET! BWEET!

SHIT.

TZOT

TZOT

PING

PING

YOU'RE GONNA NEED MORE THAN THAT TO TAKE ME DOWN.

BL

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT, DOLL?

AAAGGH!!

BLAM!

HAVING TROUBLE THERE?

=HNGG= BOMBSHELL! MY POWERS AREN'T WORKING!

I-I think it has something to do with this-- this place!

YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD.

WHOOSH

KZZT

TOOM

I'M STRONG AGAIN.

SKRAK

WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE?

IT'S LIKE WE WERE LOSING OUR POWERS THE CLOSER WE GOT TO THAT PLACE.

WHO WERE THOSE PEOPLE?

THE RUSSIANS? THE GERMANS?

BUT THEN WHY WERE THEY SPEAKING ENGLISH TO EACH OTHER?

NONE OF THIS MAKES ANY SENSE!

BETTY?

YOU'RE BLEEDING.

HOLD STILL. THIS MIGHT STING.

TSSSS

:HNGGHH:

W-WE ALMOST *DIED.*

I'D NEVER GET TO TOUCH YOU AGAIN. OR TALK TO BRANT AGAIN...

...OR START A *FAMILY...*

IS...IS THAT STILL SOMETHING YOU WANT?

THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, I'VE FELT *INVINCIBLE.*

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE WAR, I'VE BEEN STRONG, USEFUL...

WE WERE SO STUPID TO THINK WE COULD DO THIS.

WE'RE NOT STUPID. WE'RE TRYING TO *HELP* PEOPLE.

TO CARVE OUR OWN PLACE IN THE WORLD.

WE'RE *HOUSEWIVES,* VERONICA.

YOU SOUND LIKE MY HUSBAND.

MAYBE HE ISN'T WRONG.

HOUSEWIVES IN SO OVER THEIR HEADS THAT THEY CAN'T EVEN SEE THE GROUND ANYMORE.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT WE SHOULD QUIT?

...THAT WE SHOULD **BREAK UP?**

I...

...DON'T KNOW.

WHOOOOOOSH

I'M PROUD OF YOU.

FOR REMEMBERING TO PUT MY CURLERS IN?

FOR GOING OUT THERE. HELPING PEOPLE.

NOT BEING SCARED OF SHOWING THEM WHO YOU ARE.

BEHIND A MASK?

YOU'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

BUT WHAT IF IT ALL JUST GOES AWAY ONE DAY?

And I'm just Betty again.

WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH BEING BETTY?

SHE'S NOT AS STRONG AS BOMBSHELL.

ISN'T VERONICA THE ONE WITH THE SUPER-STRENGTH?

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

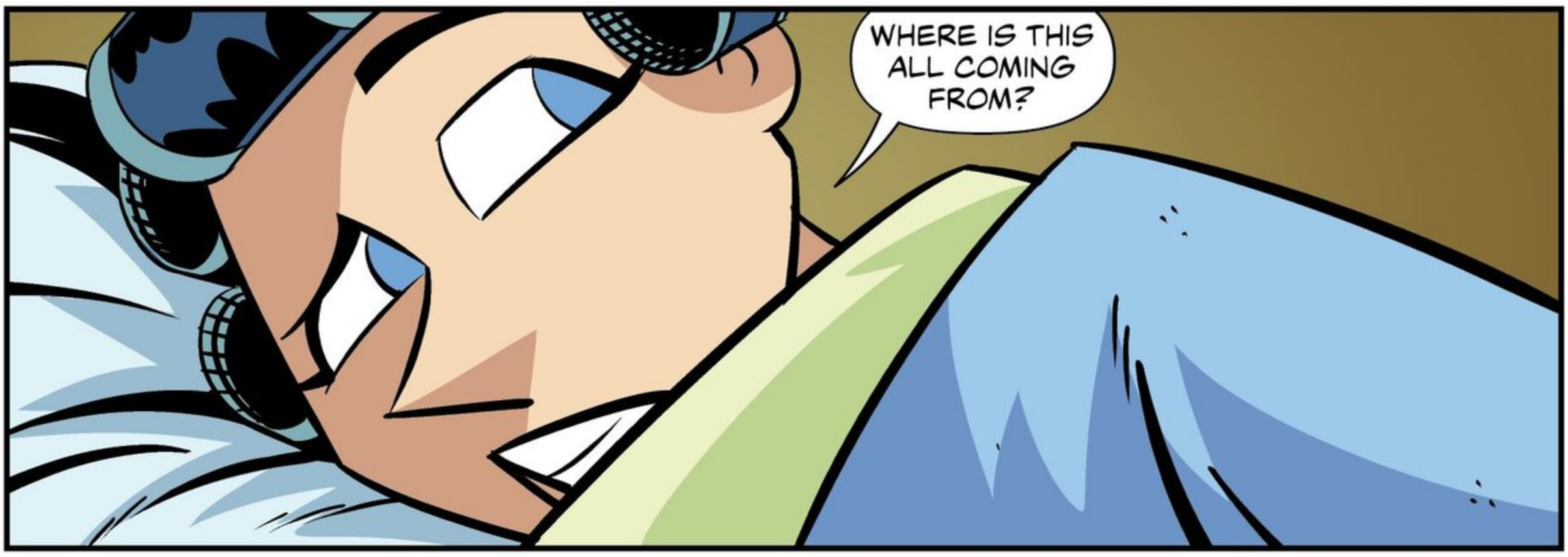
BOMBSHELL CAN BE ANYTHING SHE WANTS.

BETTY...IS JUST A HOUSEWIFE.

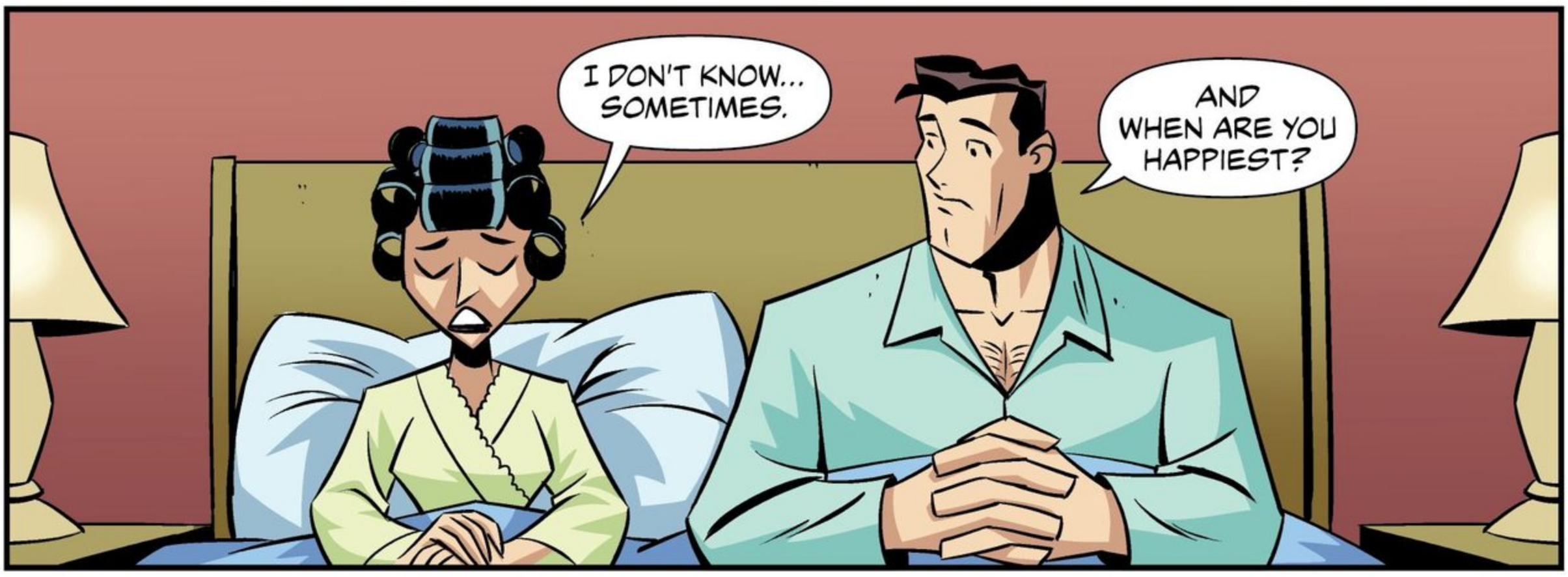
YOU'RE NOT JUST A HOUSEWIFE TO ME. YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.

LET'S JUST GO TO SLEEP. YOU HAVE WORK IN THE MORNING.

...ARE YOU HAPPY?


WHERE IS THIS ALL COMING FROM?

JUST TRYING TO BE INTROSPECTIVE.


I DON'T KNOW... SOMETIMES.
AND WHEN ARE YOU HAPPIEST?

WHEN I'M...WHEN I'M BEING A HERO I GUESS.
AND WHAT MAKES YOU SAD?

...when I'm not with...

FORGET IT, LET'S JUST...

...WITH?

WE CAN'T PUT IT BACK IN THE BOTTLE IF I FINISH THAT SENTENCE.

WHEN I WAS IN THE WAR...

...YOU DON'T HAVE TO--

"I LOST SOMEONE. SOMEONE I LOVED."

"WE WERE HANGING FROM THIS CLIFF FOR HOURS.

"I WAS HOLDING ONTO HIS HAND SO TIGHTLY..."

...BUT I WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH.

"I JUST NEEDED TO HOLD ON FOR TEN GODDAMN MORE MINUTES, AND WE COULD HAVE BOTH..."

WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

Robert. I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO CALLED HIM ROBERT.

I UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE TO CONTINUE HIDING THIS FROM OTHER PEOPLE.

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE FROM *ME*. I LOVE YOU.

BRANT, I'M... I LOVE YOU, BUT... I'M ***IN LOVE*** WITH VERONICA.

AND YOU SHOULD HOLD ONTO THAT. HOLD ONTO HER.

I wish I had that chance.

THANK YOU FOR COMING IN ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, GENERAL VALE.

OF COURSE, SIR.

WHAT'S WITH THE SPACEMAN SUITS?

THE MEN AT THIS FACILITY WORK WITH SOME DANGEROUS ELEMENTS. BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.

SHOULD I ALSO BE WEARING ONE?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I'VE HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU, VALE.

THAT YOU'RE A GOOD SOLDIER.

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

THE WAR MAY BE OVER, BUT WE ALWAYS NEED GOOD SOLDIERS.

WHICH IS WHY WE CALLED YOU IN TODAY.

DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE MISSILE STRIKE?

IN A WAY, YES.

FWSH

WE'RE ABOUT TO TRUST YOU WITH SOME HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, SON.

LOS ANGELES

KANSAS CITY

SEATTLE

CHICAGO

NEW YORK CITY

THE ATTACK IN YOUR BACKYARD DIDN'T COME FROM ABROAD.

IT CAME FROM *US.* FROM *UNCLE SAM* HIMSELF.

I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY WOULD YOU...?

THE NEW WAR ISN'T ABOUT FIGHTING EACH OTHER WITH TANKS AND GUNS.

IT'S ABOUT KEEPING OUR PEOPLE IN LINE.

GERMANY SURRENDERED HALF A DECADE AGO, BUT FOLKS ARE ALREADY FORGETTING.

GROWING TOO CRITICAL OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. TOO CURIOUS ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES.

WHICH IS WHERE ***WE*** COME IN.

KEEPING OUR TAXPAYERS AFRAID OF THOSE BIG, BAD FOREIGN POWERS.

THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM IS THAT PEOPLE NEED HOPE. THE IDEA OF A SO-CALLED "BRIGHTER TOMORROW" AND PEACE BETWEEN NATIONS.

BUT WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE REALLY NEED IS GOOD, OLD-FASHIONED, HOME-GROWN ***FEAR.***

OF THE UNKNOWN. OF WHAT LIES JUST BEYOND OUR BORDERS.

BECAUSE FEAR MEANS ***LOYALTY.***

LOYALTY TO THE U.S. OF A, WHO WILL KEEP ITS PEOPLE SAFE FROM ALL OF THOSE STRANGE AND DANGEROUS FOREIGN POWERS.

THAT'S WHY WE NEED ***YOU,*** VICTOR.

EVERYTHING IN YOUR PERSONNEL FILE INDICATES THAT YOU'RE UP FOR THE TASK.

CAN WE TRUST YOU WITH THIS, SOLDIER?

IT'S...A BIG JOB.

...SIR.

WE KNOW. WHICH IS WHY YOU WON'T BE AT IT ALONE.

MEET YOUR NEW PARTNER.

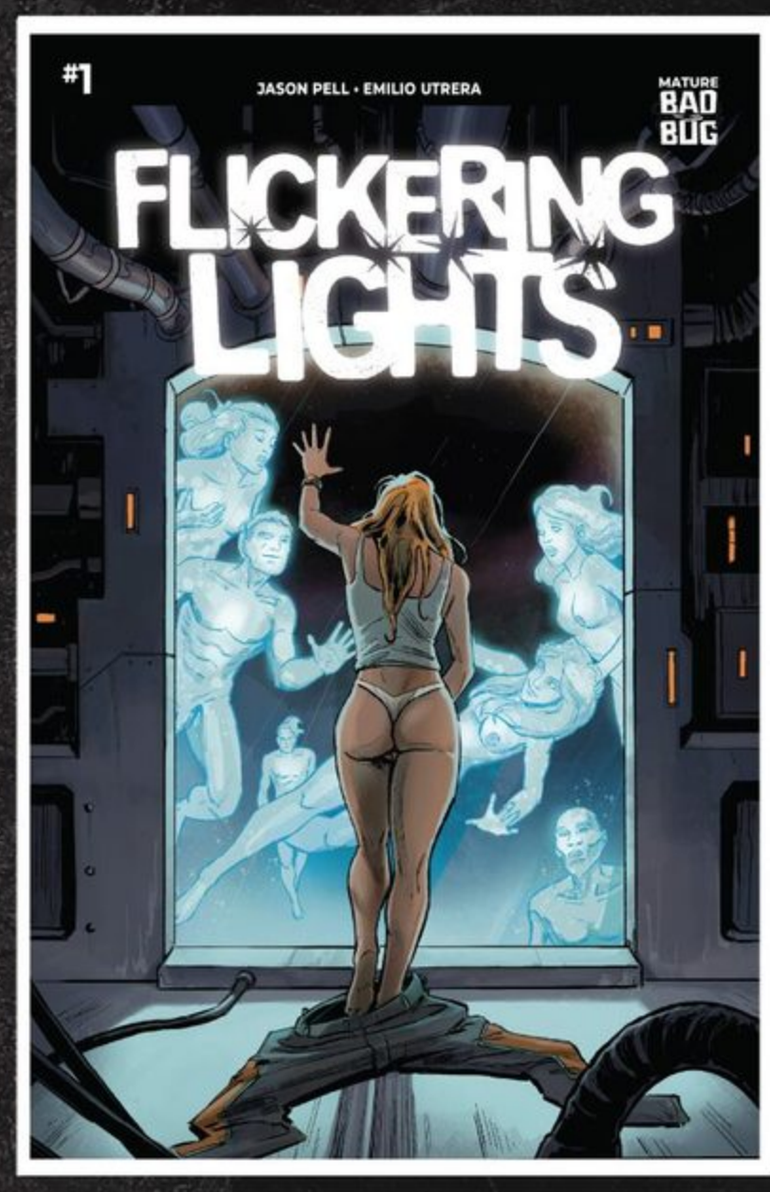
RITA RADOW!

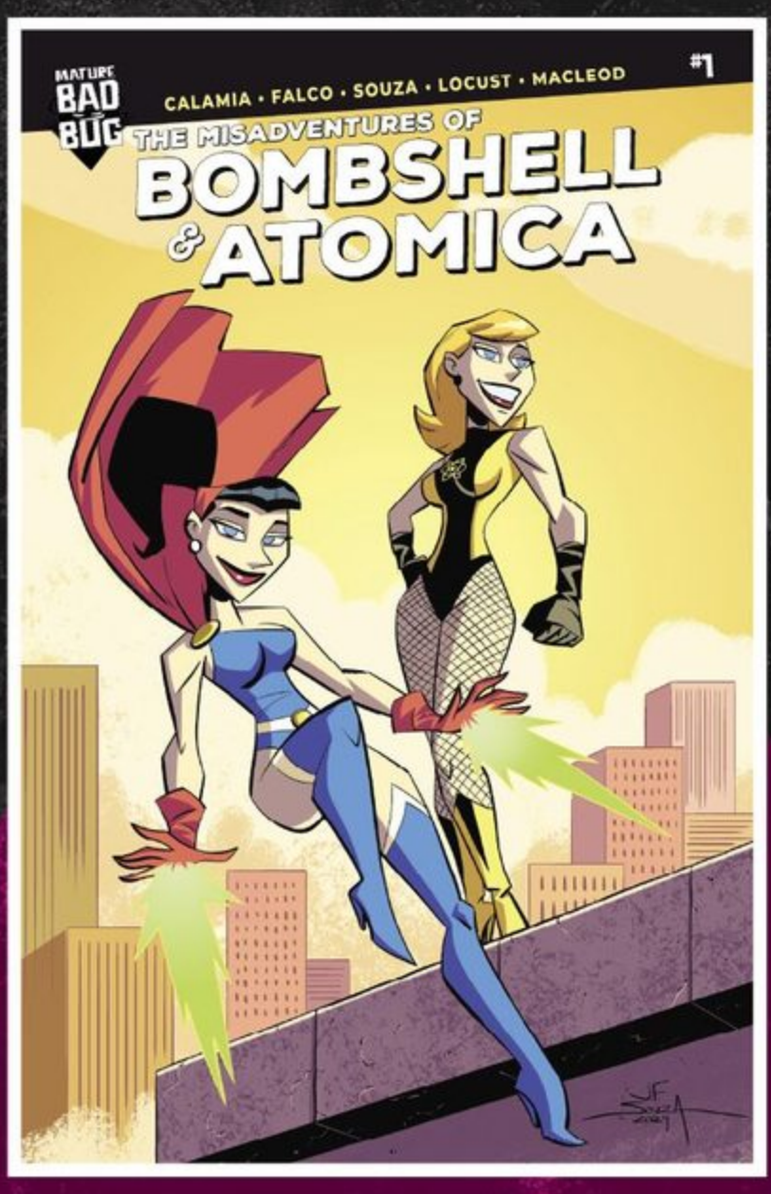
TO BE CONTINUED...

BAD BUG

FOR A GOOD TIME, GO TO

WWW.BADBUGMEDIA.COM





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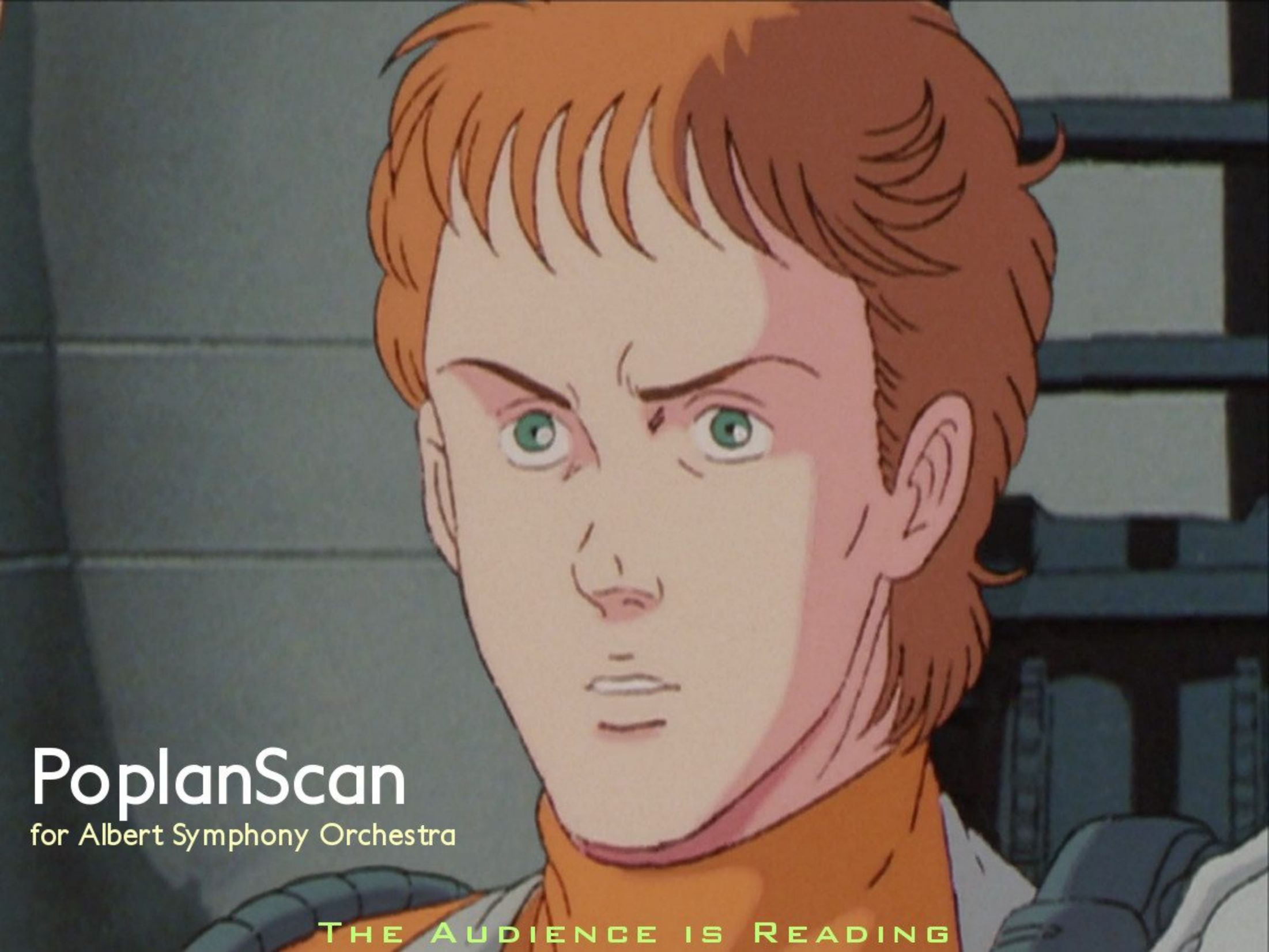
PoplanScan
for Albert Symphony Orchestra
The Audience is Reading